

portance of health work. The importance of this work and the wisdom of a strong statement upon it coupled with a positive platform pledge were clearly placed before Senator Carter Glass, the chairman of the Democratic Platform and Resolutions Committee, and his fellow committee members.

The fact that the health service of the United States and of the various states is and should always continue to be non-political has not in the past deterred both great political parties from taking definite positions for its advancement. Although more deaths result annually from the lack of maternal care than the total casualties of the war, the entire expenditure of the Government during the past year appropriated for the work of the only bureaus relating to women and children was less than five and one-half thousandths of one per cent!

Editorial Comment

In view of the specious claims of "chiropractics," and of their campaign of misrepresentation in California, there is published on another page of this issue an article entitled "The Fountain Head of Chiropractics," taken from the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for July 3, 1920. Physicians will here find information worthy of wide dissemination among their patients and friends.

Do not fail to read every word of Dr. Alvarez' special article in this issue. It will provide you with ammunition, and being provided, do not fail to shoot and to shoot straight. The time is past when the medical profession, charged with the protection of the health of the public, can afford to ignore or leave unmolested the lying propaganda and malicious commercialism of half-baked, half-educated, half-witted fanatics of various cults and sects whose aims would result in serious detriment to the public health. State the facts without fear or favor. It is now the open season for all faddists who are a public nuisance and a danger to the people's health. Go after them.

The progress made by Ohio in systematizing and advancing its general social program has been attributed largely to the Ohio Council of Social Agencies. This organization was formed in July, 1919, as a result of a conference arranged by Governor James M. Cox shortly after the signing of the armistice. The public departments had been gathering for many years a vast amount of social information. Recently, the private agencies have gathered more, but until the Council was organized, this information was unrelated, and as in other states, little information was exchanged between departments. The Ohio Council has been able to pool this information through a special sub-committee known as the County Case Committee. This committee studies the needs of the state, county by county, and makes recommendations to the Council. In

cases where not enough knowledge of a community has been compiled, and where the city or county invites it, the Council stands ready to make an extensive social survey.

According to the Social Hygiene Bulletin the new marriage law passed by the Parliament of Sweden is perhaps the most progressive in the world. Its leading principle is "to make the position of husband and wife equal; their rights and duties mutual in every respect, and to make them both responsible for home and family." Under this new act the guardianship of the husband is totally abolished. A wife may, like her husband, choose her own domicile, and is entitled to take her working utensils and part of the furniture. She may practice any trade or profession without her husband's consent and has all liberty of contract even with her husband." Regulations for divorce are enunciated in the law as follows:

If both want to dissolve their marriage, they have only to send in to the proper authority an application for separation, which is then granted for one year without any further investigation. When the year is out each of the parties may urge full divorce and is not obliged to give any grounds for his or her demand. Divorce is then immediately granted. If they or one of them want to get a divorce without going through a year of separation, or if only one party desires separation against the wish of the other, reasons must be given. Such reasons are mainly infidelity, desertion, debauchery and drunkenness, neglect of family duties, and knowingly exposing the other party to contagion through venereal disease.

Special Articles

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO DEFEAT ANTI-HEALTH AND ANTI-MEDICAL LEGISLATION?

By WALTER C. ALVAREZ, M. D., San Francisco.

From present indications there are going to be four measures on the ballot in November which will strike directly at the public health. One aims to stop all animal experimentation in California; another to abolish compulsory vaccination; another to establish a special licensing board for chiropractors, and the other is a referendum on a law which excludes osteopaths from those who are entitled to have and use hypodermic syringes. All of these measures are bad and should be defeated. They will be defeated only if the physicians who know the facts will educate the public in the next three months. If the man in the street has no reason to doubt that the antivivisection measure is designed purely to stop the wanton torture of dogs by vicious medical students; if he thinks that small-pox is a thing of the past and that vaccination is dangerous and useless; if he thinks that osteopaths and chiropractors are noble men who are being denied a square deal by a jealous medical profession, why should he not vote for these measures? The physician is one of the few men in the community who can put him right, and who can combat the